Installation of colour X-Ray machines at IGIA

993. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to install colour X-Ray machines at IGIA to check anti smuggling operations;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Airports Authority of India have been showing least interest in the project;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the machines which were installed on trial proved to be failure; and

(f) if so, the action Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) and (b) 4 colour X-Ray machines are being installed at Indira Gandhi International Airport to check baggage in the international arrival hall.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. However, there was some delay in the procurement of the machines by the Customs Department. Two machines have already been commissioned on 17-06-1996 and the other two will be commissioned soon.

(e) and (f) Do not arise.

News-Readers of Primary and Metro Channels

994. SHRI RAM NATH KOVIND: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Primary and Metro Channels have their own News- readers;

(b) if so, their number separately with the details and procedure of selection adopted in each case;

(c) whether these News-readers are paid some remuneration for reading news for 15 minutes duration or less;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether some of such News- readers have been employed on regular basis with normal working office hours; and

(f) if so, their salaries, nature of duties besides news-reading and detailed procedure of selection adopted in each case?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are 70 News-readers on panel for Primary Channel and 12 for Metro Channel. The procedure adopted for selection of News-readers for both channels is annexed (*See* below)

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The Casual News-readers are paid fees of Rs. 250-750/-per news bulletin.

(e) Yes, Sir.

(f) The regular News-readers are paid in the scale of pay of Rs. 1640-2900 and Rs. 2000-3500. Their duty is to read news on television. The appointment of regular News readers has since been discontinued by Doordarshan and, therefore, the question of procedure for making selection does not arise.

Statement

List of News-Readers (Primary Channel)

Hindi

1. Aparna Singh
2. Anupam Gupta
3. Adarsh Malik
4. Amitabh Srivastava
5. Chaman Gupta
6. I.P. Singh
7. Jaswin Jassi
8. Anil Kalia
9. Munish Sharma
10. Neelam Sharma
11. Parvati
12. Rama Pandey